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503.28546CV9
Expedited Procedure
Group No. 1756

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KOJIMA, et al.
Serial No.: 09/917,912
Filed: July 31, 2001
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING
SAMPLES
Group: 1756
Examiner: M. Angebrannt

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Attn: Box AF

April 28, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 7, 2002, and subsequent to the filing of a Notice of Appeal on March 7, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 16 and 66 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend

the claims remaining in the application as follows:

8. (Three Times Amended) A method of processing a semiconductor sample